

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday 31st December 2017

Contest Tomorrow

We start the New Year with the IRTS 80 metres Counties Contest. It's on tomorrow, New Year's Day, from 15:00 to 17:00 UTC. There are SSB only and SSB/CW mixed mode sections for both fixed and portable stations. Multipliers are the 32 EI and GI counties as well as overseas DXCC entities. See www.irts.ie/contests for the full rules which include permitted frequency ranges.

Morse Testing in Athlone

Morse testing will be held at The Creggan Court Hotel in Athlone starting at 1400 on Saturday 20th January. Intending participants can book a place by contacting Dave EI4BZ on 087-6290574 or by email to "ei4bz /at/ eircom /dot/ net"

Wild Atlantic Way

The WAW initiative has entered the final hours - it comes to an end at midnight tonight the 31st December. The last few weeks have seen a significant increase in activity on all the WAW callsigns. Thanks to everyone who participated, in any way over the past year, to make it so successful. Limerick Radio Club is very appreciative of your support.

While activity for the WAW operators ends, the work goes on for the WAW QSL Manager, Dave EI6AL. Please don't forget to send your logs as soon as possible to him, so that he can crunch the numbers to make the totals available as soon as possible after the 31st December 2017.

Phoenix Amateur Radio Club Rally

A date for your diary. The Phoenix Amateur Radio Club rally will take place on 11th February 2018 in Coolmine Community School, Dublin 15, D15 FW97. Doors will open at 10:00 a.m. To book a table contact Tony at 087-243 9997. Tea and refreshments will be available all day. Unlimited free car parking.

Sinking of the Royal Mail Ship Leinster Remembered

EI100MCV will be active throughout the year 2018. During the year there will be particular attention drawn to dates of special significance relating to the sinking tragedy. There will, however, be particular activity in the weeks around 10th October 2018. The call sign which contains the original call sign 'MCV' of the RMS Leinster is to mark the Centenary of the sinking of the RMS Leinster in the Irish Sea on 10th October 1918 just a month before the end of World War 1. This was, and still is, the single largest loss of life in the Irish Sea with a total of 567 people lost. The ship was torpedoed by a U Boat just 25 kilometres off the Irish coast. To add to the tragedy that particular U Boat was sunk two weeks later with the loss of all 33 crew. All were very young with the oldest being just 27 years old.

Limerick Radio Club

Club meetings resume on the 11th January when Harry EI2KL will give a talk about what life is like at sea these days. He's been there recently and lived to tell the tale. It promises to be an interesting talk as he contrasts life as a Radio Officer "way back when", to how communications are established from ships today. All are welcome.

Congratulations to SWL John who was successful in passing the recent HAREC exam.

LRC wishes all a very happy, healthy and successful 2018 to all

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

A reminder that the next meeting of SEARG will be held on Monday the 29th of January 2018 in the Roanmore Social and Sports Centre, Cleaboy Road, Waterford at 8.00 p.m. sharp. A show tell titled "Satellites made simple!" will be run by Keith EI5KF, illustrating how to work amateur radio satellites . New members or anyone interested in learning more about amateur radio or the group are as always very welcome to attend.

The South Eastern Amateur Radio Group wishes everyone a happy new year and plenty of fun on the airwaves in 2018.

For anyone that wishes to find out more about the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group and their activities you can come along to any of their meetings. You can check

out their website www.searg.ie and you can also join them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter.

Tipperary Amateur Radio Group

On Thursday 14th December, members of the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group met at The Park Hotel in Clonmel for their Annual General Meeting. This was a well attended meeting with group members travelling from Counties Kilkenny, Waterford, and Cork joining their Tipperary colleagues. Hugh EI2HI chaired this very productive meeting with John EI7IG reading the minutes from last years AGM.

The group treasurer Thomas EI2IT reported a healthy financial situation. A review of the year and the group activities was then discussed at length.

The new incoming committee was then elected and it was agreed that the venue for all group meetings in 2017 will continue to be held at The Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co Tipperary. Paul EI3ENB will continue as the Group QSL Manager and Seamus EI8EPB as Group Technical Advisor. The meeting concluded at 11pm when Hugh EI2HI thanked all for their input and attendance.

The new committee was elected as follows:-

Chairman- Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI Vice Chairman - Andy Jay EI5JF Secretary - John Ronan EI7IG Treasurer - Thomas Hallinan EI2IT Group PRO - Ronan Daly EI4KN

For further information about the Group go to their website ei7trg.ie

Wexford Wireless Club

Weekly meetings for the Wexford Wireless Club will resume as normal on Wednesday 3rd of January 2018. Wexford Wireless Club would like to wish everyone a happy new year and a lot of good DX in 2018.

For more information about the club please contact the club secretary Michael Fitzgerald EI9GGB at QTHR or by dropping an email to “[wexfordwirelessclub /at/ live /dot/ ie](mailto:wexfordwirelessclub@live.ie)”

DX News

Adrian EA1CYK is a member of the Spanish UNIFIL contingent in the Lebanon. He

will be there until next May. He is using the callsign OD5/EA1CYK. QSL Manager is EA7LS.

Pat N2IEN will be QRV as A52PD from Bhutan from 2nd – 14th January. QSLs go via NR6M.

Alex UA1OJL has been very active as RI1ANO while stationed at the Bellingshausen Base on King George Island in the South Shetland Islands. From 1st January until 31st March he will be using the special callsign RI50ANO to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Bellingshausen Base. QSL Manager is RN1ON via Club Log OQRS.

A number of rare DXCC entities are scheduled for 2018. These include Somalia, Bouvet, Spratly, Ducie and Baker & Howland. Let's hope that conditions are such that many EI calls get into the logs.

Happy New Year from the IRTS

2017 is now nearly over. We have had a lot of excitement on the bands throughout the past twelve months in terms of contests, DX'ing and rag chew. A lot of very inspirational club events too including ISS contacts, special events such as lighthouses on the air etc and much much more. Of course we cannot forget that sadly we had to say goodbye to a few old friends in the form of Silent Keys, each of whom will continue to be deeply missed in our hearts and minds. On behalf of all the news team, officers and volunteers within the IRTS, I would like to wish all licensed operators and shortwave listeners an absolutely wonderful 2018, filled with whatever ham modes, bands and activities each of you enjoy the most within the hobby.

Items for inclusion in next week's Radio News can be submitted via e-mail to "newsteam /at/ irts / dot / ie" for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. Urgent news items for the radio news may be telephoned to the radio news editor, Mark EI6HPB on 086 355 2370.

Please note that items for the radio news should reach the editor no later than midday on Thursday in order to be guaranteed inclusion in the following Sunday's bulletin.

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